

Message Text

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UNCLAS SYDNEY 284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CFED, AS, UK

SUBJ: MRS. CHARMAIN BRENT (AKA MRS. RONALD BIGGS) VISIT
TO RIO

1. FOLLOWING A TELEPHONE CALL TO ME BY THE EDITOR OF THE SYDNEY DAILY MIRROR THIS MORNING, TWO MIRROR CORRESPONDENTS, RONALD IREDALE AND PETER BRENNAN, CALLED AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO APPLY FOR VISAS FOR THEMSELVES AND THE WIFE OF RONALD BIGGS, MRS. CHARMIAN BRENT. THE THREE ARE DEPARTING ON QANTAS FLT. 530 TODAY, FEBRUARY 11, AND WILL CONTINUE ON TO NEW YORK VIA TW 044 AND TO RIO DE JANEIRO ON PA 217. THEY WILL ONLY TRANSIT THE U.S. CHANGING PLANES AT LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK.

2. THE TWO JOURNALISTS CARRY AUSTRALIAN PASSPORTS AND MRS. BRENT A BRITISH PASSPORT ISSUED LAST FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, BY THE BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL IN MELBOURNE. THE VALIDITY OF THIS PASSPORT IS LIMITED TO ONE YEAR.

3. IN VIEW OF THE WORLDWIDE PUBLIC ATTENTION RECENTLY FOCUSED ON THE CASE OF RONALD BIGGS WHO HAS BEEN APPREHENDED IN RIO, WE INFORMED THE BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL IN MELBOURNE
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OF MRS. BRENT'S PLANNED DEPARTURE WITH DAILY MIRROR

CORRESPONDENTS. BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL HAD NO OBJECTION AND SEEMED NOT TO BE SURPRISED THAT MRS. BRENT WAS GOING TO RIO WITH JOURNALISTS. WE ALSO INFORMED AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH POLICE WHO HAD NO OBJECTION BUT WERE APPRECIATIVE OF THE INFORMATION, HAVING NOTED MRS. BRENT'S ARRIVAL FROM MELBOURNE IN SYDNEY AIRPORT IN THE COMPANY OF BRENNAN. ACCORDINGLY, VISAS WERE ISSUED; C-1, 3 MOS. MULTIPLE ENTRY.

4. PRESUMABLY, THE DAILY MIRROR HAS MADE SOME ARRANGEMENT WITH MRS. BRENT TO COVER HER TRIP TO RIO IN THE EXPECTATION OF ENOUGH JOURNALISTIC GRIST TO JUSTIFY THE ROUND TRIP FARES OF TWO JOURNALISTS.
HANNAH

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